

What is claimed is:

1. A method of determining usability of a document image, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) determining if a corner of a document is missing based upon captured image data associated with the document; and
 - (b) determining if the corner of the document has a fold when the corner of the document is determined to be missing.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein step (a) includes the step of:
 - (a-1) determining if at least a predetermined amount of the corner of the document is missing.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein step (b) includes the step of:
 - (b-1) determining if the fold of the corner of the document is at least a predetermined size.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein step (a) includes the step of (a-1) determining if at least a predetermined amount of the corner of the document is missing, and step (b) includes the step of (b-1) determining if the fold of the corner of the document is at least a predetermined size.
5. A method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of:
 - (c) determining the usability of the captured image data associated with the document based upon at least one of the determinations of steps (a-1) and (b-1).

Step 6

6. A method of processing a document, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) scanning a document to capture image data which is representative of an image of the document;
- (b) processing at least a portion of the captured image data to calculate a first count of pixels associated with a corner of the document;
- (c) processing at least a portion of the captured image data to calculate a second count of pixels associated with the corner of the document; and
- (d) determining if the corner of the document is missing or has a fold based upon the first count of pixels associated with the corner of the document and the second count of pixels associated with the corner of the document.

7. A method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of:

- (e) determining the usability of the captured image data associated with the document based upon the amount of information found missing from the image of the document as determined in step (d).

8. A method according to claim 6, wherein step (d) includes the steps of:

- (d-1) determining whether at least a predetermined amount of the corner of the document is missing; and
- (d-2) determining whether the corner has a fold of at least a predetermined size when at least the predetermined amount of the corner of the document is determined to be missing.

9. A method according to claim 8, further comprising:

- (e) determining the usability of the captured image data associated with the document based upon at least one of the determination as to whether at least the predetermined amount of the corner of the document is missing and the determination as to whether the corner of the document has a fold of at least the predetermined size.

Spec A1

10. An apparatus for determining usability of a document image, the apparatus comprising:

means for determining if a corner of the document is missing based upon captured image data associated with the document; and

means for determining if the corner of the document has a fold when the corner of the document is determined to be missing.

Spec A1

11. An apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising means for determining the usability of the captured image data associated with the document based upon at least one of the determination as to whether the corner of the document is missing and the determination as to whether the corner of the document has a fold.

12. An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the means for determining if a corner of the document is missing includes means for determining if at least a predetermined amount of the corner of the document is missing.

13. An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the means for determining if the corner of the document has a fold includes means for determining if the fold of the corner of the document is at least a predetermined size.

14. An apparatus comprising:

means for scanning a document to capture image data which is representative of an image of the document;

means for processing at least a portion of the captured image data to calculate a first count of pixels associated with a corner of the document;

means for processing at least a portion of the captured image data to calculate a second count of pixels associated with the corner of the document; and

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means for determining if the corner of the document is missing or has a fold based upon the first count of pixels associated with the corner of the document and the second count of pixels associated with the corner of the document.

15. An apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising:
means for determining the usability of the captured image data associated with the document based upon the determination as to whether the corner of the document is missing or has a fold.

16. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the means for determining if the corner of the document is missing or has a fold includes (i) means for determining whether a corner of the document is missing, and (ii) means for determining if a corner of the document has a fold when the corner of the document is determined to be missing.

17. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the means for determining whether a corner of the document is missing includes means for determining if at least a predetermined amount of the corner of the document is missing.

18. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the means for determining if a corner of the document has a fold includes means for determining if the fold of the corner of the document is at least a predetermined size.

19. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the means for determining whether a corner of the document is missing includes means for determining if at least a predetermined amount of the corner of the document is missing, and the means for determining if a corner of the document has a fold includes means for determining if the fold of the corner of the document is at least a predetermined size.

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